

## ARDINGLY OLD JESHWANG ASSOCIATION: A.O.J.A

### Chairman's Annual Report 2011-2012

The Trustees are pleased to present their report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012

AOJA was formed in 1993. Its aim is to provide affordable healthcare to the community of Old Jeshwang, The Gambia. To this end, in 2000, it built a modern health centre, which it now staffs.

The Charity registration number is 1024627 and is governed by its Constitution dated 6<sup>th</sup> August 1993.

Registered Office: The Mount, Selsfield Rd. Ardingly, West Sussex, RH17 6TJ

The Charity is managed by a committee of 12 persons, including the officers:

Mr Stephen Doerr. : Chairman  
Mrs Peggy Guggenheim. : Secretary / Administrator  
Mrs Barbara Monk. : Treasurer.

The trustees are the above and in addition: Mr Lynn Wilson, Vice Chairman  
Mr David Ogilvie.

The charity's bankers are Barclays and all three officers are signatories.

### **Finance**

The detailed results of the year are set out in the annexed Receipts and Payments Account. The planned deficit over the year was due to capital expenditure on the construction of a new caretakers' house and the completion of both the perimeter wall and pathology lab refurbishment. The cash funds remaining at the end of the year of £16,902 includes about £2,000 set aside for the freight and commissioning of the ambulance. We continue to consolidate our financial position and are always mindful of our responsibility for the monthly salaries of 37 staff, from midwives, path lab technicians to administrators, ground staff and cleaners. This year we expect to set aside a significant amount towards a '6 month running costs fund' in line with good financial governance practise. It has also been a year with calmer exchange rate fluctuations, an area of concern in the past.

Our sound financial base will continue to give the opportunity for greater investment in the infrastructure of the clinic to make it more self-sufficient – a long term objective of the association.

### **Sponsorship**

The sponsorship scheme continues to flourish as our main source of regular income. Our sponsor pool of about 150 supporters, giving a monthly income of around £2000, generally covers the running costs of the Health Centre including salaries and overheads. Separate fund raising events have continued to help redress any monthly shortfall apart from kick-starting new initiatives.

These events have included, coffee mornings, charity dinners, BBQs, cricket matches and concerts. We are particularly indebted to our corporate sponsors at St. Peters Church, Worth School, Bidborough Primary School, Balcombe cubs and Redcoat Express.

A second grant from the Order of the Knights of St. Lazarus and the funding of the new ambulance by a staunch supporter has enabled the association to plan for the future with some confidence. These funds will be used to complete the caretakers living accommodation and for the commissioning of the ambulance after its long sea cruise to Banjul.

### **Visits and Future development.**

Throughout the year groups have continued to go out from the UK to give specialist support in midwifery, primary health care, medical research projects and building maintenance. The retention of high standards in all these areas continues to be a priority and is often commented upon by both visitors and new patients to the centre. The review of our plans for 'sustainability' continues as one of our main objectives. Possible future site development includes the conversion of the old watchman's hut into an urgently needed additional store and the possibility of a hostel for visiting medics and night duty staff.

### **Clinic Activities**

The activities of the health centre continue to grow, with the infant welfare clinics thriving. The general out-patient attendances, an important part of the clinic programme still steadily increase.

Deliveries at the clinic also continue to increase as news of our high standards of care spread. Approximately two-thirds of the women attending the antenatal clinics deliver their babies at the health centre.

Our reinvigorated pathology team in their new lab continue to expand their range of testing. The 'feeding' programme, initiated to meet any acute nutritional needs, continues, but with the dried cereal being replaced with a new product called 'plumpy nut'. The anti-malaria 'bed net' project continues with the use of pre-impregnated nets.

A dentistry team now operates from the centre three days a week, for consultations and extractions!

As part of a Global Health Fund initiative the Health Centre has offered itself to be a counselling and testing centre for HIV/AIDS and it is expected to be accredited soon. Three members of our staff have already been trained to provide this service.

From time to time a doctor is 'resident' but we would like to make this more permanent as and when a suitable appointment can be made, funding permitting.

### **Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS)**

The elective programme continues, with Brighton and Sussex Medical School keen to use our structured programme for their students and involving the Medical Research Council (MRC) in Fajara. Students stay at the MRC for 6 weeks, spending Monday and Tuesdays at our Health Centre, the busiest days and the remainder of the week at the MRC. Generally two students from BSMS go out at time when they are able to visit other local medical facilities apart from helping with our Anti Natal and Infant Welfare Clinics.

### **Research**

With the increasing number of births at the health centre we are in a position to audit the birth outcomes. The study continues to examine the effect of maternal anaemia during pregnancy

on the well-being of the mother and baby at delivery. This study will indicate what can be achieved in The Gambia in a health centre with facilities such as those available at Old Jeshwang.

For this data collection, ethical approval has been agreed locally from both the combined ethics committee of the Gambian Government and the Medical Research Council. It has been a long process but successful data collection is now underway.

### **Pharmacy**

The revolving drug fund continues to keep us adequately stocked but the system still requires review in terms of suppliers and rate of consumption of some items. Supplies in the Gambia can be uncertain for 'essential' items and we are currently looking into the possibility of some procurement in the UK. Backary our cashier and stock controller continues to increase his role in the day to day management of the centre, easing the workload of our hard pressed administrator. This year saw Backary successfully complete Stage 3 of his accountancy exams funded directly by the association. This support will continue for his stage 4 later in the year.

### **Buildings and Plant**

The buildings remain in good condition, with the continuation of our rolling plan of redecoration and visits from groups of UK sponsors who are always able to put their varying skills to good purpose.

Our magnificent generator still cuts in most days to cover for the regular power cuts which are a feature of Gambian life, but its refurbishment is overdue with new parts required! The new access arrangements to our Public Health Officer have ensured that the library is no longer used as a waiting room and it is hoped that its primary use can now be more fully developed.

### **Old Jeshwang (OJ) Management Committee**

The O.J. management committee continues to be ably led by its chairman Emmanuel Stafford who in supporting our administrator, Abdoulie Sowe, retains a good team spirit and sense of ownership amongst the staff. The system of monthly reporting, now well established, enables us to respond more accurately to changing circumstances at the centre. It was however with some sadness that we noted the death of their secretary, Dodo Jallow, a founding member.

### **Risk Assessment**

The trustees have identified and are aware of any risks to which the Charity is exposed and will keep this under constant review to establish procedures to mitigate those risks.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Stephen Doerr  
Chairman.